

## San Diego Refugee Forum

### Minutes

Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm  
IRC – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

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#### 1. Call to order at 10:30 am

**Present:** IRC, HHS, CAIR, El Cajon Collaborative, Nile Sisters Development Initiative, Native Interpreting, Women's Empowerment International, Mental Health of America, License to Freedom, United Women of East Africa (UWEST), Survivors of Torture International, San Ysidro Health, Jewish Family Services (JFS), Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA), Molina Healthcare, Anne Hoiberg, Planned Parenthood of Pacific Southwest), License to Freedom, Haitian Bridge Alliance (HBA), Volunteers in Medicine San Diego, Media Arts Center San Diego, San Diego Career Center, AAPCA3, USCIS, Join the Journey, Mary Cory,

#### 2. Executive Committee Announcements and -Participant Introductions

- a. Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and made the following announcements:
  - i. Looking for new leadership and committee chairs. November will be our last meeting
- b. Membership and Financials:
  - i. The Refugee Forum has over 64 total members.
  - ii. The Chair and Treasurer positions are still open. Elections will take place in November. Members can vote.
  - iii. Balance for the year so far is positive with a grand total of approximately 10,000
- c. Refugee Forum Officers Rebecca Paida (Chair), Mejgan Afshan (Vice Chair), Jackline Mola (Secretary), and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

#### 3. Task Force Updates

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** Monthly meeting was Nov 8th. The fact sheet was sent out. Next meeting will be in January 2019. Still looking for new members. Candidates questionnaire was published online back in October.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** On hiatus– if you have any interest in joining the Asylum Seeker Task Force please contact Rebecca Paida, Jackline Mola or Mejgan Afshan.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** Put together a joint forum in October called Health and Wealth Event with the employment taskforce on Mental Health First Aid and more, it went well.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** Employed and Empowered, last meeting of the year we discussed activities to go on for the New Year and we are looking for new Co-Chairs.
- e. **Health Task Force:** Held a Mental Health Refugee Panel November 13<sup>th</sup> at the East African Cultural Center at 1:00pm. Looking for a new Co-chair, we plan to nominate them first week of December.
- f. **World Refugee Day:** The World Refugee Day Task Force currently on hold for meetings.

#### 4. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** - No announcement.
- b. **Catholic Charities:** No announcement.
- c. **International Rescue Committee:** 14 total arrivals for October, 6 primary refugees, 4 SIVs, 4 Asylees.

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- d. **Jewish Family Services:** 4 total arrivals, 6 SIV's from Afghanistan, 1 Eritrean, 7 Congolese, 3 Russian 1 other Asylee.
- e. **State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama and Kathi Anderson):** Will be meeting December 13<sup>th</sup>. Kathi hopes to focus on asylum seekers and asylees in general. It will be in Los Angeles.
5. **County Agencies and Committees**
  - a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):**
    - i. The County of San Diego had 53 arrivals for the month of October.
    - ii. The total number of arrivals for San Diego County for the federal fiscal year (October 2017-September 2018) is 844.
  - b. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** No Updates
6. **Focus Presentation: Vote/Nominations**
  - i. 32 members, quorum reached.
  - ii. Electing a new Chair and a Treasurer: Two members got highest votes with a tie- Mohamed Tuama and Ross Fackrell each got 15 votes.
7. **Spotlight presentation: Presenters**

Refugee Programs Bureau  
Presenter: Jacqueline Hom, County Operations & Performance Unit Manager

  - a. Presentation available at [sdrefugeeforum.org](http://sdrefugeeforum.org)
8. **Community Updates:**
  - a. Various actions happening at the border.
  - b. Mejgan: December 4<sup>th</sup> Stop Bullying Town hall 6-8 pm at Ronald Regan Community center because of the rise of bullying in East County against refugees, Immigrants, Black and Latino families and children.
  - c. Invited Nadia Murad December 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNHCHR.
9. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Jackline Mola- Motion to Approve Minutes, Ilena Gudino seconded. All were in favor.

**Adjournment: 12:00 pm**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 15th, 2019 at 10:30 AM